

369 enlarged school system or in municipal, government and other offices. The majority of students who graduated from high schools tended to remain in the cities. Although Estonia had relatively few larger industries (see Subparagraph 3b, Economic Background), there were numerous fairly prosperous small industries where employment was to be found.

369 Estonian society over the past hundred years
● 166 could be characterized as an extremely dynamic one. After the final liberation from slavery² and attachment to the soil there rapidly developed an independent farmer class, and the surplus rural people sought occupation in the growing cities where industrialization took place in the [428] last quarter of the nineteenth century. As farms were usually inherited by the eldest son, the other farm children were sent to city schools
1[see cat. 116, pp. 23-26⁻²⁻ -- Analyst]

369 to learn some craft or trade. This constant
116 migration and change of social status, adjust-
ment to a new way of life and to the new social,
political, and cultural ideas moving from West
and East to the Baltic coast, all have helped to
create a perpetually changing life for the Es-
tonian people. This has been especially true
of the urban areas. More stability could be
traced in rural communities until the Commun-
ist Occupation, although the land reform at the
beginning of independence changed the pattern
186 of rural living considerably. However, despite
these rapid changes¹ the Estonian people had
then and have always had a high sense of unity
and loyalty to country. This could be illustrated
by numerous examples from history, as well
as by more recent events: the numerous large-
scale revolts against suppression; the

1[see cat. 116, pp. 2-3 -- $\overline{a}n\overline{a}ly\overline{t}$]

162 Tartumaa.....	181, 296
Valgamaa.....	39, 278
Viljandimaa.....	74, 993
Virumaa.....	146, 318
Võrumaa.....	83, 145

161 The mean density of the population of the Republic of Estonia was 25.3 persons per square kilometer. The average density in rural areas was 15.3 persons per square kilometer, being highest in Setumaa (36.1) and lowest in Pärnumaa (12.1).

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166 After the liberation from slavery of the Estonian peasants in the 1860's, Estonian towns started to grow as a result of the migration of landless people into the towns. This movement was intensified toward the end of the century when the growth of industries in larger cities

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created a strong demand for workers. By this time Estonia had already progressed from a feudalistic country to a capitalistic one. Dr. E. Kant has traced the population in rural Estonia during the period 1922-34 and has noticed that internal migration within Estonia has been far from uniform; the highland regions, for example, were depopulated far more rapidly than the lower areas. One exception, however, [563] to this trend was the southeastern corner of Estonia (Petserimaa) with its high percentage of Russians. Here the density of the rural population was steadily increasing. Although one cannot speak of any real overpopulation in Estonia, the density in the highlands has always been greater, and it is natural that these areas have given their surplus population to the cities.

In spite of all this urbanization, Estonia was

162 4.	In Leningrad <u>okrug</u> (the Kapsha rayon)	2, 202
	Total	32, 706

In the literature it is customary to divide the Vepsians into three groups on the basis of linguistic and geographical differences. The size of these groups in the 1930's was estimated as follows:

1. The North or Onega Vepsians in Sheltozero rayon..... ca. 10, 000
 2. The Middle Vepsians--south of the Svir River as far as the Korvoil village..... ca. 14, 000
 3. The South Vepsians--south of the Korvoil village..... ca. 10, 000
- Total ca. 34, 000

The fourth group is formed by the so-called Isaijeva Vepsians who lived in Isaijevo volost to the east of the White Lake; their number in 1873 was 295. They were probably completely russified at the beginning of this century.

In this report this last division -- North, Middle, South and Isaijeva Vepsians--will be used.

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369 Changes in the composition of the population. The Vepsians are a typical rural population, and until recently they almost never lived in cities. Since 1930, however, considerable changes have taken place in their distribution. The collectivization of the

3: Indiana U. S-4, 5 1955 RG4 Estonia RG4
Vepses

166
[349] economy caused flights to Finland (especially among the North Vepsians) and a rush to the towns. The demand for manpower in governmental, municipal and industrial fields also increased the number of the Vepsian-speaking population in the towns. Deportations and mass-arrests, which started concurrently with forced collectivization, caused further changes in the distribution of the population. And finally [167] we should not forget the role of the second World War, due to which a considerable number of Vepsians moved in two directions--either to the east to the Russians or to the west to the Finns. Flight to Finland was especially easy in North Vepse, which was for some time occupied by Finland. After the end of the war in 1944, Finland was obliged to return the refugees to the Soviet Union. At least a part of them, however, escaped to Sweden and could thus not be compelled to return.

161 Population trends. The first numerical data for the Vepsians were published by Köppen in 1848, according to which there were 15,617 Vepsians, of them 8,550 in Olonets government and 7,067 in Novgorod government. The official Russian publication of 1873 gave the number of the Vepsians as 26,172. According to the census of 1897, the Karelians' number was 25,559, of whom there were in Olonets government 16,147, in Novogrod government 9,157, and elsewhere 255. In the last figures

177 by the aggressive policy of denationalization of the Livonians by the Latvian church and schools. Church services have always been held in Latvian, even though the congregation in [191] former times did not understand it. In the schools the Latvian teachers punished the speakers of Livonian by beating them and sending them to stand in the corner. Livonian was [166] laughed at and called the "horse language." An especially strong blow was dealt to Livonianism during the first World War when all the Livonians had to leave their homes and spend several years among the Latvians or the Russians. When after the war they returned to their homes, the younger generation hardly knew any Livonian at all. Looirts, who visited these people in 1920, gives the following description: "Livonian is known in all villages, but it is a half-dead language which is usually not spoken. There are still families who speak Livonian, but even more numerous are those where the children do not know any Livonian at all." (Liivi rahva olevik, p. 76.)

After the war, the academic circles of free Estonia and Finland tried to assist in the preservation of the small Livonian ethnic group, but the Latvians, on the other hand, did everything possible to accelerate their assimilation. The Livonians' dream of having their 177 own county was, after great efforts made by 668 the Livonians, finally granted by one Latvian government but refused by the next one. Lead-

177 ing Livonian patriots were investigated and
[648] frequently molested by the police. The teaching of Livonian was to some extent tolerated in the schools (two hours a week as an elective), but the futility of it was preached incessantly.
[517] In the 1930's there developed a nationally conscious Livonian intelligentsia under Estonian and Finnish schooling, but they were not given teachers' posts in their own villages. The Latvians also refused to pay regular salaries to teachers of the Livonian language but gave them only pocket money. In answer to the Livonians' petitions to grant them some money for printing books in Livonian, a big library in Latvian was sent to them. In Livonian villages four branches of the Latvian cultural societies were organized. The above-mentioned measures all served one purpose: the quick Latvianization of the handful of Livonians still left.

- [166] During the second World War the Livonians were sent again away from their sea-coast homes to their neighbors, the Latvians. Undoubtedly this again deprived them of many of their kinsmen. The complete Latvianization of the few Livonians who have remained is, at any rate, a question of only a few decades.